

 <p>Green Mountain National Forest</p>	 <p>Finger Lakes National Forest</p>	<p>Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests</p> <p><b><i>For Immediate Release</i></b></p> <p>Monday, March 7, 2011</p>
<p><b>News Release</b></p>		<p><b>Contact: Jay Strand 802-767-4261</b></p>
<p><i>Caring for the Land and Serving People</i></p>		

## **FOREST SERVICE OFFERS PUBLIC MEETINGS ON PROPOSED PLANNING RULE**

ROCHESTER, VT. The USDA Forest Service will offer a public meeting to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about a recently released proposed planning rule and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23 at the Rochester Ranger District office in Rochester, Vermont. There will be two meetings to choose from with the first being scheduled from 2:00 to 5:00 pm and second from 7:00 to 10:00 pm.

The proposed planning rule and associated draft environmental assessment were released for a 90-day public comment period that will end on May 16. Once finalized, the proposed rule will guide all National Forests across the country in a new way to revise and amend Forest Plans. Federal law requires each National Forest to have a Forest Plan to guide all activities that may take place on National Forest system lands. The Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont last revised its Forest Plan in 2006. The Forest Plan is not scheduled for revision until 2021.

The meetings will begin with an explanation of the proposed rule followed by a question and answer session. Instructions for how to submit written comments will also be provided. The meetings will be hosted via video conference from the Eastern Regional Office in Milwaukee as part of a national effort to provide the public an opportunity to learn about the proposed rule. Comments will not be collected at the meetings.

For more information about the public meeting call Jay Strand at (802) 767-4261, or email him at [jstrand@fs.fed.us](mailto:jstrand@fs.fed.us).

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